Discussion Questions – Segment 4

1. Which, in your opinion, was worse: the verbal, personal teasing Alison Goller had to endure at school or the hateful web page about her? Why?

2. How do rumors get started? How are they prolonged? Why do people participate in rumor spreading? Do these people ever stop to think about the effect the rumors have on others? Why or why not? What does it take to stop a rumor?

3. How should schools react when a student complains of sexual harassment?

Activity

Bullying Headlines

PROJECT AND PURPOSE
Students will review recent news headlines and programming to complete an analysis of the bullying today (physical attacks, cyberbullying, rumors and gossip) and the ways it is covered by the media.

MATERIALS
Access to Internet for research

PROCEDURE
1. To begin this activity, ask each student to search the Internet for recent news stories locally or nationally about bullying incidents. Request a brief summary with basic details: who, what, when, where and why, to be presented to the class.
2. Continue the discussion by trying to identify trends in bullying coverage and the incidents: Is bullying online or in person? Male or female? Are parents quoted? How do school administrators respond?
3. As an individual exercise, request that each student write a letter to the editor, blog post or article for the school paper, taking a position on what is being done, or needs to be done to further bullying prevention.